Export of Textiles, Gems and Jewellery

1264. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian export basket has virtually remained unchanged over the years with low-value-added commodities pre-dominating;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, along-with the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in some sectors like textiles we have actually lost market share and in gem and jewellery unit realisations have been stagnant; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Over the years, India's export basket have withnessed a significant shift in favour of value added products in place of traditional and low value added commodities. A number of measures have already been taken to augment exports. These include bringing down the rate of interest on export credit from 11% to 9%, strengthening the existing export incentive schemes, simplification of procedures and addressing sector specific issues. Policy review is a continuous process and is based on interaction with trade and industry associations.

(c) and (d) Export value (in US $ million) and export growth rate of Textiles and Gem and Jewellery is given below:—

Textiles

Year	Value $ mn.	growth rate (%)
1996-97	8045	7.7
1997-98	8238	2.4
Apr.-Nov. 1998	5173	- 6.9

Gems and Jewellery

Year	Value $ mn.	growth rate (%)
1996-97	4753	- 9.9
1997-98	5116	7.6
Apr.-Nov. 1998	3723	15.2

Source: DGCT&S

Trans-Asian Road and Railway Network

1265. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the route and alignment of Trans-Asian Railway and road network has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the proposed plan schedule for its execution; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in finalisation and when it is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Under the aegis of Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, the Economic and Sol-cial Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is considering finalisation of various study reports submitted by ES-CAP Member-countries on alignment of Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) linkages in-cluding the report submitted by India. ESCAP will be carrying out consultations during March 1999 will the concerned Member-countries and would discuss the results of the draft study report in an Expert Group Meeting during May, 1999.

As regards Asian Highway Road Network, studies on road network connecting China, Kazakhstan, Mangolia, Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula and on identification of Asian Highway Routes in Turkey and underway so as to complete the formulation of Asian Highway Network for the whole Asia. The